VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND VII—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE—(*contd.*)

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I was at the question of the corruption prevailing in the Department. I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla in stating that there is corruption and it is not merely of a proportion that could acquiesce Government, or the general public, to the feeling that, in every Department there is likely to be corruption. I am aware of the fact, Sir, that you have made it abundantly clear in this House more than once that if, some body gives sufficient proof, he will be sufficiently protected and action will be taken against the Officer against whom corruption is alleged. I want to explain the difficult position in which the public are, with regard to that matter. I want to know from the Chief Engineer whether he is not equally anxious to put down corruption. If he and his subordinates are anxious, I am sure it will be possible for them to do it even without complaint and extraneous proof. It will not be possible to give legal proof—proof that will satisfy a Court—and it will not be possible to find out persons coming forward, risking a career which is very difficult in these days. Persons who will be directly concerned with the transactions and with the Officers of the Department—contractors and sub-contractors—will not be very anxious—we cannot expect them to be very anxious—to take so much trouble to establish honesty in the Department. Often it may be to their detriment. If the Officer is absolutely honest, it may save public money but at the same time the contractor may stand to lose more than he would if he satisfies him temporarily. Therefore I would earnestly request the head of the Department to take this into his head as his primary duty and to see that Officers in the Department are not corrupt to such an extent as would be detrimental to public interests. I do not put the case higher. I do not think it will be possible for the Department to take any measures to make this Department absolutely honest. But I would submit that, if the Departmental head takes it into his head to find out those persons who are committing excesses in this direction, they can be found out. Some consider it to be their legitimate due. Some people say that they cannot get on with their salary and carry on the education of their children in Colleges and other places. By making mention of this here, I would not take the responsibility of going about, proving these cases, but I would suggest to the Chief Engineer to enquire into the conduct of the Sub-Division Officer at Quilon and the Section Officer at Kottarakara. There are complaints.

President: Who are they?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: One, the Sub Division Officer at Quilon and another the Section Officer at Kottarakara. There are complaints and I think from the large volume of

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complaints and from different sources from which they come, there is something that needs to be enquired into and if the Chief Engineer would look into the question himself and if he proceeds with the work with a view to find out such persons, none of us are anxious to victimise any person and as for that, I can say, I have nothing to do with these people and I am not interested in anything except to see that there is at least a limit to these depredations. I am sure the Chief Engineer, an experienced man that he is, a man who is very well known to the contractors and sub-contractors and who knows intimately the methods adopted by the contractors and by officers can find them out and he must be, I think, Sir, backed by Government to a certain extent. It will not be possible for any officer to put down corruption if meticulous care is taken regarding proof. But a very large discretion must be given to the honesty and integrity of the high officer who examines these questions and I am sure, Sir, that if any man makes it serious business and wants to put down corruption in the Department it will be possible for him to do so and it will be for the good of the Department and the public.

In this connection, I want to point out to the Chief Engineer that in certain offices certain clerks have been for a very long time. That must change. I know of one person who has been for 23 years continuously in the Quilon Section Office. It is not his fault that he has been there for such a long period.

President: What is he ?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: He is the Head Clerk in the Quilon Section Office. Various allegations are made and it is just likely that there is temptation and that he will become clever enough to evade the Executive Engineer, the Sub-Division Officer and other Officers. These matters can be looked into by a person who knows the peculiar conditions of this country. I am glad that an officer with the experience and intimate knowledge like Mr. Chacko is at the head of the department. In regard to these matters he can find a remedy and I should think that he should endeavour to make this department more clean. It is not in a spirit of adverse criticism that I point this out. I hope that he also will admit it, though not officially and he will know in his heart of hearts that there is corruption. Sir, we are not often guided in this life by the strict rule of law. I consider that the limitations that exist are common both for officials and non-officials. There is no use shutting out that fact. I consider all human limitations and I want to take only a practical and earthly view of things. Taking this view, I think it may not be possible often times to admit facts. I want only to get things done as far as practicable and possible. I am not concerned in scoring a debating victory. I am only concerned in setting right matters. That is why I put

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[Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

With regard to the working of the P. W. D. Advisory Board the opinion of the public is that it is working well, and I must congratulate the head of the department and the members of the Board for creating that impression. All the same, I wish to point out that there are certain needs that have to be looked into and that the order of urgency with regard to taking up works is sometimes deflected as a necessary result of the wishes of the members who depend for their votes to the legislature and ultimately for their votes to their constituency. They have many things to look to but a wise guiding head must work efficiently at the top to ward off certain of the defects that might possibly arise. I hope, Sir, that it will be done.

I have to point out that certain roads in the Quilon taluk, for instance, the Kulapuram-pooyappalli, require the immediate attention of the department. This road is familiar to the present head of the department. I have troubled the department about few roads but I have troubled successive Engineers about this road and it is not yet complete, though the people have acquired the land, cut the road and are prepared to surrender the whole. Only certain culverts have to be built. Even if the road is not completed, I think that with a small expenditure the second and third stages also can be finished and the road made useful. Then with regard to the road running from the big bridge at Quilon to Harrison and Crosfield and to the beach, it has been for long in a very bad condition. I know, Sir, that some amount has been allotted for the abutments on the banks of the canal. But I think, Sir, the work has to be finished not within one year but within two or three years and the allotment may not be sufficient even for one year. These are the few minimum demands that I have to bring to the attention of the department and I hope, Sir, that the departmental head will consider these questions well and act promptly with regard to them.

Mrs. Abernam Gnanasikhamony (*Nominated*): Sir, I read with pleasure the following lines in the Financial Secretary's speech introducing the budget:—

> "Government have also sanctioned the proposals for deepening and renovating the existing tanks, providing new tanks and supplementing the supply of water in the Pechipara Reservoir in order to enhance the output of paddy in Nanjinad."

Sir, in this connection I have to say that these sanctions alone do not help the ryots, but their thirst will be quenched only if these sanctions are correctly and most consciously carried out. I wish to represent one grievance here. There is a tank in Asaripallam Neendakarai, A pakuthi S. No. 902 A and C, of 2 acres and

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90 cents called தாமரைகுளம். This tank is gradually being filled up and the Kumbhom Krishi becomes very hard. Repeated petitions have been sent to the authorities concerned. Anyway the week before the last some work was begun in the tank. But the ryots of that puravu say that not even one twentieth of the work needed is done. When these ryots approach the Maistries and the Contractors they are told that only so much work has been demanded and ordered to be done. So my request is, Sir, that the deepening of the existing tanks in Nanjinad must be carried on in such a way that the aim and the good intention of Government for the good of the land is most fruitfully carried out. The aim of Government is to enhance the output of paddy cultivation so that we may depend on our own production as far as possible. I fully believe, Sir, that this good aim of Government will be achieved through the executive departments.

Sir, the speed with which the sanatorium works in Asaripallom are being carried out is really commendable and I congratulate the Department for it.

The dustless cement road from Cape Comorin to Trivandrum is really a blessing to the public at large. The house owners along the sides of the road and the shopkeepers do not have any fear now of any disease as Tuberculosis attacking them. Regarding the bends and corners that have been rectified in that road some say that the total length of the road has now become more than 42 miles. I do not know whether this is true or not. It will be a good sight and it will be a very useful thing if this cement road is extended throughout Travancore.

Sir, a branch road from the Manakúdi road to Puthalam Church had been sanctioned some time ago and the lands have been taken from the people. But no work has been done for such a long time. Another thing is the extension of this branch road to the beach. This is highly needed by the villagers and also by the people who go there as a health resort from Nagercoil and other parts.

With these few remarks I support the motion.

Mr. C. N. Tuppan Namputiri (*Travancore Jenmies*): സർ, ഈ ഡിമാൻഡിനെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ചില സംഗതികൾ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം മറു രാജ്യങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കുറ്റമറ്റതാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ല. ഗതാഗത സൌകര്യം നാൾക്കുനാൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും വരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ സന്തോഷകരമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇങ്ങിനെ സന്തോഷകരമായ സംഗതികൾ പറയുന്നതിനോടുകൂടിതന്നെ ചില സന്താപകരമായ സംഗതികൾ കൂടി ഇവിടെ പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

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[Mr. C. N. Tuppan Namputiri.]

കോട്ടയം ടൌണിനോട് ഏറ്റവും സമീപിച്ച് കിടക്കുന്ന ഒരു ദേശമാണ് നട്ടാശേരി. അവിടെ താമസിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളെല്ലാംതന്നെ വളരെ സാധുക്കളാണ്. ഭാഗ്യദോഷത്താൽ എന്റെ ദേശവും അതുതന്നെയായിപോയി. അവിടെയുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികാരേയും, ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പോവിലെ വാച്ചർമാരേയും ഒഴിച്ച് മറ്റു യാതൊരു ഗവർമ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരേയും ഞങ്ങൾക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. കാരണം മറ്റുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാരുംതന്നെ അവിടെ തിരിഞ്ഞുനോക്കാറില്ല. എം. സി. റോഡിൽ നൂറ്റമ്പത്തെ മൈൽകുറ്റിയിൽ നാലാമത്തെ ഫർലാഗ്ങ്ങിൽനിന്നും കിഴക്കോട്ട് ഒരു വില്ലേജ് റോഡു പോകുന്നുണ്ട്. ആ റോഡിൽ ഒരു പാലത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ പരാതിപ്പെട്ടു. അതനുസരിച്ച് ഒരു പാലവും തീർത്തുതന്നു. പണ്ട് പാലമില്ലാതിരുന്നകാലത്തു് അവിടെ ഒരു കടത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുള്ളകാലങ്ങളിൽ കടത്തിൽ കയറിയാൽ കടത്തു വള്ളക്കാർ കരയുള്ളസ്ഥലത്തുകൊണ്ടുചെന്ന് ഇറക്കുകയായിരുന്നു പതിവു്. ഇപ്പോൾ പാലം കെട്ടിയപ്പോൾ ആ കടത്തു് നിർത്തിക്കളഞ്ഞു. മഴക്കാലത്തു പാലത്തിനപ്പുറത്തു കഴുത്തുവരെ വെള്ളം കാണും. ഈ പാലം തീർന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ലാതെയായി തീർന്നിരിക്കയാണു്. ഈ പാലംകൊണ്ടു് പ്രയോജനം ഉണ്ടാകണമെങ്കിൽ കഷ്ടിച്ച് ഒന്നര മൈൽ നീളത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു റോഡുകൂടി അവിടെ തീർത്തുതരണം. ഈ റോഡിന്റെകാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി അഞ്ചെട്ടുകൊല്ലമായി ഞാൻ തന്നെ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതു് ഏറ്റവും ചുരുങ്ങിയ ഒരു സംഖ്യകൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. ഫാറസ്റ്റു് കൺസർവേറ്റർ മി. രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ കാലത്തു നട്ടാശേരിയിലുള്ള ഫാറസ്റ്റു് ഡിപ്പോവിൽ ചെന്നെത്താൻ യാതൊരു മാർഗ്ഗവും ഇല്ലെന്നു അദ്ദേഹംതന്നെ നേരിട്ടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവിടെ പോകുന്ന യാളുകളെല്ലാം എന്റെ സ്ഥലത്തുകൂടിയാണു് പോകുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ അതിലെ ആളുകൾക്കു നടന്നു പോകാമെന്നല്ലാതെ വണ്ടികൾക്കോ കാറിനോ പോകാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. ഡിപ്പോവിൽ ലേലത്തിനും മറ്റുമായി പല ആളുകളും വരേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഈ റോഡു ഫാറസ്റ്റു് ഡിപ്പോവിനും വളരെ ആവശ്യമാണു്. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan (*Nominated*): മെംബർ അവിടെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരരും വരുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ പാലം

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തീർന്നതിനശേഷം അധികാരികളാരും അവിടെ വന്നു പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല ?

Mr. C. N. Tuppan Namputiri: അധികമായിട്ട് അവിടെ ആരും വന്നിട്ടില്ല. ചിലപ്പോഴെല്ലാം ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പോ നോക്കാൻ ചില ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വള്ളം വഴി അവിടെ വരും.

President: I find that a large number of honourable members have given their names. Honourable members will therefore kindly be brief.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, it appears from the Budget for the current year that a large sum has been set apart for small important works in North Travancore. Although provision has been made in the Budget, the local officers say that the works could not be taken up this year since they have not as yet received the administrative sanction of Government. The local subordinate officers say that they get copy of budget annually only in Vrischigom and they are not able to send up and prepare estimates early. This has to be remedied. The object of Government in making the provision in the budget for works is to see that those works are proceeded with. The public are earnestly awaiting for the construction of those works. I therefore request that in future at least, the Chief Engineer should see that those works for which allotments have been made are carried out in that year itself and that such amounts should not be allowed to lapse.

Coming to irrigation, it can be seen from the report of the department at page 26, that although Rs. 2,69,304 were spent on irrigation works in 1115, not a single pie seems to have been spent in North Travancore. Beyond Changanacherry there has been no irrigation activity. In answer to an interpellation it was stated that the number of irrigation tanks and canals in North Travancore is large. It cannot be imagined that the public of North Travancore do not want any irrigation facilities. It is highly necessary to have a separate Irrigation Board for North Travancore to look to the necessities of the public. A Board with a non-official majority will be more useful to the public. At present there is a P. W. D. Advisory Board but irrigation seems to be outside the scope of that Board. If we want to extend the area under paddy cultivation, irrigation is very necessary. Although sufficient amount has been set apart for irrigation the actual expenditure is very small and that only in a particular area. Therefore, I submit that Government should constitute Irrigation Boards in all sub-divisions and if possible with non-official presidents.

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Sahib Bahadur Sultan Muhiadheen : സർ, ജലവിതരണം സംബന്ധിച്ച തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിലേയും ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുവരികിലും ജലവിതരണം അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച യാതൊരു വ്യവസ്ഥയും ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിൽ കൽക്കുളം താലൂക്കിലെ തിങ്കളാഴ്ചന്തയും, വിളവങ്കോട്ട താലൂക്കിലെ കരിങ്കൽ ചന്തയും രണ്ടുപ്രധാന ചന്തസ്ഥലങ്ങളാണ്. ഈ രണ്ടു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും അനവധി ആളുകൾ കൂടിപാക്കുന്നു. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ലാ ചന്തദിവസങ്ങളിൽ തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിലെ പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും അനവധി ആളുകൾ വന്നുകൂടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ രണ്ടു ചന്തകളിൽ നിന്നും ഗവർമ്മെന്റിലേക്കു ധാരാളം വരവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നിട്ടും ഇവിടെ കൂടുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കു വെള്ളം കുടിക്കുന്നതിന്, ഒരു കുടംവെള്ളത്തിന് ഒരു ചക്രം വിലകൊടുത്താൽക്കൂടി കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് എനിക്കു നേരിട്ടതന്നെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളും പൊതുജന പ്രതിനിധികളും ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് പല പരാതികളും കൊടുക്കുകയും അതുകാരണം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇപ്പോഴും രണ്ടുകൊല്ലമായി കൂടക്കൂടെ അവിടെ വരുകയും പല നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുന്നപ്രകാരം കാണുകയും മറും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്രകാരം ഉള്ള അവരുടെ അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾക്കു ശേഷവും അവരുടെ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾക്കു യാതൊരു തീരുമാനവും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ച് യാതൊരു വ്യവസ്ഥയും ചെയ്യാത്തതുതന്നെ ലക്ഷ്യമാണ്. ഏതായാലും ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് പ്രത്യേകിച്ച ഈ ചന്തകളിൽനിന്നു ശരിയായ വരവു കിട്ടുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു അവിടെക്കൂടുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കുടിക്കാൻ വെള്ളംകിട്ടണം എന്നു പറയുന്നതു് വെറും ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതി മാത്രമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ചീഫ് ഇൻജിനീയർ ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ട ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കയും വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇതുകൂടാതെ വിളവംകോട്താലൂക്കിൽ പൈംകുളം പകുതിയിലും, കീഴ്കുളം പകുതിയിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ പരാതിക്കുശേഷം ഒന്നരണ്ടു ട്യൂബ്‌വെൽസ് കുഴിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അവ അതുമുതൽ ഇതുവരെ ഉപയോഗശൂന്യമായി കിടക്കുന്നു എന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ ഒട്ടും അതിശയോക്തിയില്ല. ഈ സംഗതികൾ എനിക്കു തന്നെ നേരിട്ടറിയാവുന്നവയാണ്. കുടിക്കാനുള്ള വെള്ളം സംബന്ധിച്ച ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും അതിന്റെ അധികാരികൾക്കു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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അടുത്തതായി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് മെയിൻറനൻസ് സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. സാധാരണ മെയിൻറനൻസു സംബന്ധിച്ചു് വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞ തുകകൾ മാത്രമാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ അനുവദിക്കുന്നതെന്നുവരികിലും അതിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറധികാരികൾ ശരിയായ ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കാത്ത കാരണം ആ വേലകൾ ശരിയായി നടക്കാതേയും അഥവാ നടത്തുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ മെറൽ ഇറക്കിയിട്ടിട്ടു് രണ്ടും മൂന്നും കൊല്ലം കഴിഞ്ഞതിനു ശേഷവും അവയുടെ മെയിൻറനൻസു നടത്തിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു എനിക്കു തന്നെ നേരിട്ടറിയാം. ഈ വക സംഗതികളിൽ എല്ലാം ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെയും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റേയും ശ്രദ്ധ പ്രത്യേകം പതിയണമെന്നുമാത്രമേ എനിക്കു അപേക്ഷയുള്ളൂ.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pathanapuram cum Shencotta*): Sir, I thank the Government for accepting the principle of distributing the funds available for new works on a taluk-wise basis. The avowed object of Government is to industrialise the State. For this purpose a net work of canals and roads is absolutely necessary. The existing means of communications are not sufficient. The fund allotted for this purpose is also very meagre. Even the amount that has been allotted has not been fully spent. Last year more than a lakh of rupees was allowed for new works. My information is that a substantial portion of it has been lapsed at the end of the year. Most of the new works, allotted to my constituency have not been started. Only two small roads have been taken up. They are also not finished. The funds allotted for the remaining works have lapsed. This is indeed a sorry state of affairs. I request Government to increase the fund for new works and at the same time take special case to see that all the works are taken up and completed in that year itself.

Another point I wish to stress is that irrigation works should be entrusted to a separate officer. Now irrigation works are being attended to by the Executive Engineers. The result is that the irrigation works are neglected. It has been expressed by the Director of Agriculture and the Government that extensive cultivation of paddy is impracticable in this country and that we should increase production of paddy by intensive cultivation. This cannot be possible without improving facilities for distribution and conservation of water. Thousands of acres of paddy land in the state, have been silted up. These can be reconverted only with the co-operation of this department. It is because of this that I urge for organising a separate department for irrigation works.

I also urge the necessity for effecting retrenchment in this Department. A large portion of the revenue of the State is expended by this Department. I think a reasonable reduction can be made in the salaries of officers and in the establishment charges.

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[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

A small State like Travancore does not require five P. W. D. divisions. The Northern most Division is comparatively small and it can be amalgamated with the neighbouring divisions. I think two divisions can be abolished and some of the sub-division officers can also be abolished, there by Government can make a considerable saving and can utilise such savings for the improvement of communications in the State.

Mr. P. R. Goda Varma Raja (*Edavaga*): Sir, it is a matter of great pleasure to me to thank the Government for the recent order extending the period of the P. W. D. Advisory Committee. Sir, this has been done in accordance with the wishes expressed in this House during the last budget session. It shows how anxious Government are in whole-heartedly and readily accepting the opinion of the non-official public. Even though the Advisory Committee has been functioning well for some time there is still room for improvement in its working.

Sir, you have referred in a recent speech to a Persian quotation 'Delhi durast' (Delhi is far away). I would in this connection point out that people in the rural areas have an impression that Trivandrum is far away in the spirit of this quotation.

President : But it is never more than one hundred miles.

Mr. P. R. Goda Varma Raja : Still it is far away in spite of the Transport Department. This is a serious matter and I am sure that the Government will do the needful. Ever since I came here as a member of this Council I have been expressing not only my grievances but also the grievances of many other people.

With regard to the absence of a bridge at Erattupetta and the consequent hardship which the people are suffering, Sir, I wish to invite the Head of the Administration to visit that place and inspect it personally. I am sure you will be convinced of the real hardship of the people especially at the time of the rainy season.

One other matter which I wish to bring to the notice of Government is with regard to the savings that are annually effected in this department. If those savings are constituted into a permanent fund, it will be for the good of the State. Instead of allowing these funds to lapse it is necessary that they be constituted into a separate fund so that without imposing any additional burden on the people it is possible to effect improvements in the matter of communications. It is only when we have an organised plan in these matters, we could effect a steady and consistent improvement. Without that we will be nowhere.

In the matter of corruption that is prevalent in the Department I agree with the people that in this matter Government

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should not insist upon adducing strict proof. Under the circumstances prevailing in Travancore, it is difficult for the people to come forward and give strict proof in regard to corruption. I would urge that a committee consisting of the Head of the Department with two or three other officials may be empowered to look into this matter. When serious allegations of corruption are brought forward against specified individual officer and if it is found that the particular officer has been guilty in that matter he should be severely punished. This alone will create confidence in the people and they will be able to give what little assistance they can and help Government for rooting out corruption. With these observations I support the demand.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, I support the Demand. The people of Kuttanad have every reason to be thankful to Government for starting successfully water-works in the rural centres of Kuttanad. I trust that this work will be continued and some more centres will be taken up during the course of the next three or four years when the whole area will be supplied with fresh drinking water. The people of Kottayam are also deeply indebted to Government for sanctioning the starting of the water works at Kottayam. In this connection my special request to the Head of the Department is not to allow the moneys set apart for the works to lapse, but to start the works as early as possible by appointing the necessary special staff and also, if necessary, to apply for supplementary grants and expedite the completion of the works as early as possible. The improvements contemplated to the Kottayam Boat Jetty are also welcome.

But there are one or two matters still, which the public of Kottayam are badly in need of. One is the reconstruction of the bridge at Nagampadam. It is a bridge over which there is very heavy and incessant traffic and the existing bridge has not been kept in a proper manner as it ought to have been for several years past. For some time past, some patch works have been done now and then and the bandages so effected have not proved useful or satisfactory. Instead of making piecemeal allotments for patch work improvements, I would suggest that a reconstruction of the bridge may be taken in hand as early as possible and the work finished as expeditiously as possible.

Another matter of importance for Kottayam is the opening of a road from Kottayam to Alleppey. I am aware this was under contemplation of some of the previous Executive Engineers who were the Division Officers at Kottayam and certain schemes had been suggsted by them. One scheme that was suggested by one of the Engineers, I understand, was the opening up of a road on one side of the backwaters which has been now converted into a paddy field, to connect the Munro light to Munro right on one side. It may

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[Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar.]

be necessary to have ferries between the bunds of the different blocks of two or three ferries in Kayal reclamations. If such ferries are provided, this problem could be solved. Of course it may cost a good deal. But the allotments of two or three years would be ample for providing this vital need.

Another advantageous suggestion which I want to propose is to have a connecting link between Kumarakom and Muhamma. The road from Kottayam to Kumarakom is practically complete and the road from Alleppey to Muhamma is also more or less complete. All that is required is only a connecting device with the help of the motor boat service. If this is done as early as possible it will be a great saving of time and expense for the people to reach Alleppey from Kottayam. The access through lands by means of a road from Changanacherry to Alleppey has also been a long-felt need. I am glad that a beginning will be made this year in that direction and I trust that in course of time this will become an accomplished fact.

There are certain bridges to the importance of which I wish to draw the attention of Government. A bridge at Kollakadavu the connecting link between Mavelikara and this side of Chengannur is one instance. This is a very important bridge which I think must be pushed through and the work finished as early as practicable. The expenses may not be very heavy so far as this work is concerned, considering the utility of the work. There is also another bridge which was referred to by Mr. Raja on the Meenachil river. That is also a very necessary one at Erattupetta. I would emphasize one or two matters which have already been brought to the attention of Government even last year. That refers to the completion of works started years ago and over which a lot of money has been spent, but left unfinished causing danger to the public. Such works could be taken up and finished. If they are left unfinished, that is a clear loss to Government. If the Chalakal canal and Mulakanchira canal are completed it will add considerably to the public utility, both from the point of view of navigation as well as from the point of view of irrigation.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ എതുക്കുന്നു. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന് ഇതുവരെ ശരിയായ ഒരു നയം രൂപീകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണു ഒരു അഡൈ്വസറി ബോർഡ് രൂപവൽകൃതമായതു് അഡൈ്വസറി ബോർഡ് രൂപവൽകൃതമായതോടുകൂടി ശരിയായ ഒരു പദ്ധതി നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രാരംഭനടപടികൾ കണ്ടുതുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു സന്തോഷപൂർവം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടേ.

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ഇവിടെ സംസാരിച്ച മെമ്പറൻമാർ പ്രസ്താവിച്ച സംഗതികളിൽ നിന്നും എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതു് ഓരോ പ്രദേശത്തുമുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾ സങ്കടപ്പെട്ടു നിവേദനങ്ങൾ നടത്തി തുടങ്ങുമ്പോൾ അവരെ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുത്തുവാനായി അവിടെ ഒരു റോഡോ തോടോ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയും, എന്നാൽ കുറേക്കൂടി സ്വാധീനബലവും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥസേവയും ഉള്ളവർ മുൻപറഞ്ഞതിനെക്കാൾ ഉപയോഗം കുറഞ്ഞതും പ്രാധാന്യം ഇല്ലാത്തതുമായ റോഡുകളുടെയോ, തോടുകളുടെയോ, ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിക്കുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ആദ്യം ആരംഭിച്ച വേലകൾ തള്ളിക്കളയുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇതുകൊണ്ടാണു് അനവധി മെമ്പറന്മാർ അവരവരുടെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലങ്ങളിൽ അപൂർണ്ണാവസ്ഥയിൽ ജോലികൾ അവശേഷിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാ എന്നു് പരാതിപറയുന്നതിനു ഇടയായതു്. എനിക്കു ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെയും പുതിയ ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയരുടെയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെടുത്തുവാനുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതി ഇതാണു്. ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗത്തും സഞ്ചരിച്ചു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ആവശ്യമുള്ള പൊതുമരാമത്തു ജോലികൾ ഏതെല്ലാമാണെന്നു കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചശേഷം ശരിയായ ഒരു സ്കീം തയാറാക്കി ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്കു സമർപ്പിക്കണം. സ്വാധീനബലം ഇല്ലാത്തവരും പ്രത്യക്ഷാണ പ്രസംഗിക്കാത്തവരുമായ അളുകൾ താമസിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അവശ്യാവശ്യമുള്ള ഗതാഗത സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുകയില്ലെന്നുവന്നാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ സംതൃപ്തരും സമാധാനചിത്തരും നിയമാനുസൃതശീലരും ആയ സാമാന്യജനങ്ങൾ എങ്ങനെ ഈ നിലയിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുമെന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറു അവർകൾക്കായി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു പൊതുമരാമത്തു ജോലികൾ ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതു സംബന്ധിച്ചും ആരംഭിച്ച ജോലികൾ പൂർത്തിയാക്കുന്നതു സംബന്ധിച്ചും ശരിയായ ഒരു പദ്ധതി രൂപീകരിച്ചു മുൻപോട്ടു കൊണ്ടുപോവുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യണം. മറെറാന്നു, ചെയ്യുന്ന ജോലികൾ ആണ്ടുതോറും ഭീമമായ സംഖ്യ ചിലവുചെയ്തു നന്നാക്കാതിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ തന്നെ വൃത്തിയായും ബലവത്തായും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. ഈ സംഗതി ഞാൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതു് ഒരു അനുഭവം എനിക്കുണ്ടായതുകൊണ്ടാണു്. അടുത്തകാലത്തു ഞാൻ കോട്ടയം ആശുപത്രിയിൽ ചെന്നപ്പോൾ പഴയ വാർഡു പൊളിച്ച ഒരു ഭിത്തി കാണുവാനിടയായി. അതു് പരിശോധിച്ച അവസരത്തിൽ കുമ്മായം കൊണ്ടു കെട്ടാതെ ചെളിയിട്ടു പണിത ഒരു ഭിത്തിയാണതെന്നു് മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴി

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

ഞ്ഞു. പൊക്കം കുറഞ്ഞ ഭിത്തികളെ ചെളിയിട്ടു കെട്ടുന്നതു് കൊണ്ടു് തരക്കേടില്ലായിരിക്കും. എന്നാൽ കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാർ ലാഭത്തിനുവേണ്ടി കുമ്മായത്തിനു പകരം ചെളികൊണ്ടു് പവൻകെട്ടിടങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു് ആശാസ്യമല്ല. മേലധികാരികൾ കെട്ടിടം പണിയിക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ തന്നെ കൃത്യബോധത്തോടുകൂടി പരിശോധന നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ വരുകയില്ലായിരുന്നു. ഇനിയും അവിടെ ബാക്കി നിൽക്കുന്ന ഭിത്തികൾ പരിശോധിച്ചാൽ ഈ വസ്തുത മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഏതായാലും മെയിൻറനൻസു ഇനത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ആണ്ടുതോറും ഗണനീയമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ ചെലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതു കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ചീഫ് ഇൻജിനീയർ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

വേറൊന്നു്, ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യ ആണ്ടുതോറും പൊതുമരാമത്തു വേലകൾക്കായി നീക്കി വയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും എല്ലാ പ്രദേശത്തേയും ആവശ്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധ വേണ്ടപോലെ പതിയുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. കൂട്ടനാട്ടിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എനിക്കു വളരെ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കാനുണ്ടു്. ഈ ക്ഷാമകാലത്തു സമൃദ്ധമായി നെൽകൃഷി ചെയ്തു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൻെറ കലവറ എന്നവണ്ണം ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ സമ്പത്തിനേയും സമർദ്ധിക്കാവശ്യമായ സാധനങ്ങളേയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് വരുന്ന ഒരു ഗണനീയ ജനവിഭാഗം അധിവസിക്കുന്ന ആ പ്രദേശത്തു ഒരു ഇഞ്ചു റോഡുപോലും ഇല്ലെന്നു ഈ ജനപ്രതിനിധിസഭയിൽനിന്നുകൊണ്ടു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്കു വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ലജ്ജതോന്നുന്നുണ്ടു്.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം കൂട്ടനാട്ടിൽനിന്നും ഒട്ടേറെ നെല്ലു കൊച്ചി സംസ്ഥാനത്തേക്കു അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി മെമ്പർക്കു അറിയാമോ?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : അവിടെനിന്നുംകൊച്ചിസംസ്ഥാനത്തേക്കു നെല്ലു കയറ്റി അയച്ചിട്ടില്ല. പോയതു കൊച്ചിയിലേക്കാണോ എന്നു എനിക്കു നിശ്ചയമില്ല.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : ഏതായാലും ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ആ നെല്ലു കൊണ്ടു് ഉപകാരമുണ്ടായില്ലെന്നറിയാമോ?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : കൂട്ടനാട്ടിൽ റോഡുകൾ കുറവായതു് അവിടെ വെള്ളംവന്നു മൂടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടല്ലെ?

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Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : അല്ല. അവിടെ ആ വശ്യമുള്ള സംഗതികൾ നോക്കി ചെയ്യുവാൻ ചുമതലപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗ സ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കൃത്യബോധക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടാണു.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : റോഡുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രമേ ഗതാഗത സൌകർയ്യം ഉണ്ടാകയുള്ളൂ എന്നാണോ മെംബറിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : റോഡിൽക്കൂടിയുള്ള ഗതാഗതസൌകർയ്യം വേണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതു്.

സർ, ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ രണ്ടു ചീഫ് ഇൻജിനിയറന്മാരും കുട്ടനാട്ടുകാരാണു്. ഒരു കുട്ടനാട്ടുകാരനാണു ഇന്നത്തെ മഹാനായ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി എന്നു് അഭിമാനിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെ ആ നാട്ടുകാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടും കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ ഒരിഞ്ചുറോഡോ ശരിയായ തോടോ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നില്ലെന്നുവന്നാൽ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു പിന്നെ എന്തു ഫലമാണുള്ളതു്. സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ദേശീയപ്രാതിനിധ്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ഇവിടെ പല വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളും നടക്കുകയുണ്ടായല്ലോ. അതാതു സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കും ദേശങ്ങൾക്കും അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുണ്ടാകണമെന്നുള്ള ആകാംക്ഷയോടുകൂടിയാണു് ആ തത്വങ്ങൾ സ്വീകാര്യമാക്കുവാൻ ആഗ്രഹിച്ചതു്. അവരുടെ വാദഗതിയുടെ പൊരുതത്തിനു് അംഗീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു തങ്ങളുടെ നാട്ടിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുവേണ്ടി അവർ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറുതന്നെ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ശ്രദ്ധചെലുത്തുകണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : ജനപ്രതിനിധി സഭകൾ അടങ്ങിയ ഒരു ഉപദേശക സമിതി പൊരുമരാമത്തു കാര്യങ്ങൾ നിർവഹിക്കുന്നതിനായി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള വിവരം മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ആ വിവരം എനിക്കറിയാമെന്നു ഞാൻ ആദ്യമേ പറഞ്ഞതിൽ നിന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും.

സർ, മി. കൃഷ്ണയ്യരുടെ പ്രസ്താവനയിൽ നിന്നും കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ പുതിയ ഒരു റോഡു് തുടങ്ങാനുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി കേൾക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ അതിനുള്ള പ്രൊവിഷൻ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല.

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

അതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആലോചനയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു മറുപടിക്കാരേണ അറിയുന്നതു് ആശ്വാസപ്രദമാണു്. തുടങ്ങിയ ഒരു പണി അപൂർണ്ണാവസ്ഥയിൽ കിടക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി എന്റെ ബഹുമാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതെ പോയതു കഷ്ടമായിപ്പോയി. ആലപ്പുഴ—ചങ്ങനാശേരി തോടിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ആലപ്പുഴ—ചങ്ങനാശേരിതോട്ടിനു വേണ്ടി കണ്ടെടുത്ത നിലത്തിൽനിന്നും ആവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുകയും അവകളുടെ കരം കുറവു ചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നിട്ടും അതിന്റെ പണി പൂർത്തിയാക്കാതെ ഗവർമെൻറു് ഉദാസീനമായിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവർമെൻറിന്റെ നയത്തെ മറു തരത്തിൽ ദുർവ്യാഖ്യാനം ചെയ്യുവാൻ സംഗതിയാക്കുന്നതാണു്. കഷ്ടിച്ചു് അര ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലമേ ഇനി വെട്ടി നീക്കേണ്ടതു് ആവശ്യമുള്ളു. അതിലേക്കു രണ്ടായിരമോ മൂവായിരമേ രൂപയുടെ പൊന്നും വില കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരും. ഈയാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ പ്രസ്തുത റോഡിനായി മൂവായിരം രൂപാ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ആശ്വാസകരം തന്നെ. എന്നാൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ആ സംഖ്യ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്താതെ ഈ തുകകൊണ്ടു അതിന്റെ പണി പൂർത്തിയാക്കത്തക്ക നടപടികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു കൈക്കൊള്ളണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. പണി പൂർത്തിയാക്കുവാൻ ഈ തുക മതിയാകുന്നില്ലെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അനുവദിച്ച തുകകൊണ്ടു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലം പൊന്നും വിലയും കൊടുത്തു് എടുക്കുകയും ബാക്കി പോരാതെ വരുന്ന പണം ബഹുജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു കാൺട്രിബ്യൂഷൻ ആയി പിരിച്ചു് പണി പൂർത്തിയാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാവുന്നതാണു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ കുട്ടനാട്ടിലുള്ള പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പ്രതിബിംബിപ്പിക്കയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കോട്ടർ കുഞ്ഞുകൃഷ്ണപിള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. മുമ്പു് അഴിമതികാര്യത്തിൽ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. ഡി. യും തമ്മിൽ മത്സരമായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ സമർത്ഥനായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ നേതൃത്വം എക്സൈസു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനുണ്ടായപ്പോൾ കൈക്കൂലിക്കു ശരിയായ ഒരു ശമനം ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനുണ്ടായി എന്നു സന്തോഷപൂർവം പ്രസ്താവിക്കാൻ കഴിയും. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നു പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. ഡിയിൽ നടമാടുന്ന അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഏറ്റവും സുന്ദരമായ ഭാഷയിൽ പ്രശാന്തഗംഭീരമായ വിധത്തിൽ മി. കോട്ടർ കുഞ്ഞുകൃഷ്ണപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞ ഓരോ വാചകത്തോടും ഞാൻ പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങുവാൻ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെപ്പോലെ അത്ര പ്രയാസമില്ല. ഇതു് വളരെ ശീഘ്രതയിൽ കണ്ടു പിടിക്കാൻ കഴിയും. മിസ്റ്റർ ഐ. സി. ചാക്കോ വിചാരിച്ചാൽ ഇങ്ങനെ അഴിമതികൾ കാണിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ കണ്ടു പിടിച്ചു അവരെ മാതൃകാപരമായി ശിക്ഷിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. അതിനു കഴിവില്ലെങ്കിൽ ന്യായമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു സമ്മാനങ്ങളും പ്രോത്സാഹനവും കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു അദ്ദേഹം തയാറാകട്ടെ. നീതിമാന്മാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ അങ്ങനെ ബഹുമാനിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ അഴിമതിക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻമാർക്കു അതു് ഒരു പാഠമായിത്തീരും.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതു എന്തിനാണു്?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : അതു് അവർ വേല ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : പാരിതോഷികം കൊടുക്കുന്നതോ?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : കള്ളം ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു്.

സർ, എനിക്കു മൊത്തത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്, ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലുള്ള കൈക്കൂലികളും അഴിമതികളും നിറുത്തുക, അതിൻറെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനു ശരിയായ ഒരു നയം ഉണ്ടാക്കുക, ആവശ്യമുള്ള പണികൾ തുടങ്ങുകയും തുടങ്ങിയവയെ പൂർത്തിയാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുക, ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻറെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഇതുവരെ വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം പതിയാതിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു ആവശ്യമുള്ള പണികൾ നടത്തിക്കൊടുക്കുക മുതലായ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻറെ സത്വരമായ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയണമെന്നാണു്.

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Sir, I am very thankful for the very helpful criticisms brought forward by the honourable members.

President : The honourable member will kindly speak up.

Mr. I. C. Chacko : In the course of the general discussion the other day, Mr. Kuruvilla enquired why the amount allotted for relief works in Alleppey was not spent. Owing to acute unemployment among the labourers at Alleppey and other places in the coastal area Government allotted Rs. 5 lakhs for relief works there. A committee was constituted to prepare a programme and they selected certain works. About 22 works were selected in Alleppey and Shertala. The most important of these works, was

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[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

the raising up of certain low lying portions of the Alleppey town. The estimate for that came to Rs. 3½ lakhs. All the lands proposed to be raised belonged to private individuals and the lands contained valuable plantations and costly buildings for which heavy compensation had to be paid. If the lands were to be acquired the major portion of the allotment would have had to be paid as compensation. With a view to make the whole allotment available for works, Government suggested that the owners of lands should pay the cost of raising back to Government in easy instalments of 10 years without interest. All the landowners except the owner of about one acre expressed their unwillingness to agree to this proposal and therefore this scheme had to be dropped. It is the amount allotted for this work that remains unspent.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: May I know whether the Department could not have diverted this amount for some other useful activities which would be of benefit to the people?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: There was ample allotment for the works suggested by the committee and by the time this scheme was given up it was too late to take up other works. Also the situation in the factories improved considerably and there was not the same need as before.

Only about Rs. 5,000 has been spent so far for this work and all the other works selected are either completed or very nearly so.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Is it true that the amount went to rich people rather than to the poor people who actually needed it?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: No, the works were given on tenders.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: ക്ഷാമ നിവാരണത്തിലേക്കായി നീക്കിവച്ച പണം മുഴുവനും അതിനുവേണ്ടിത്തന്നെ ചെലവാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: I am coming to that. The allotment for these 37 works including those in other localities amount to Rs. 3,09,000 and almost 2½ lakhs have already been spent. The remaining half a lakh is mainly tender savings and partly cost of works yet to be completed. At the commencement, about 12 to 15 thousand labourers were given employment per week. Later on as the work in factories was resumed, the number went down slowly and even to-day ab-out 2,500 coolies are engaged on these works. About 22 miles of new roads and 4 miles of canals have been opened and 40 miles of roads improved. It is thus evident that the relief afforded was sub-tantial and timely and spread all over the affected area.

The honourable member Mr. Kuruvilla mentioned yesterday that there are too many Executive Engineers and that the Division headqurater of Alwaye was at one time Muvattupuzha and that it

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was shifted to Alwaye to suit the convenience of the then Division Officer who was not keeping good health. I may assure the House that I know Mr. Everad personally and that he was one of the most healthy and robust of the Executive Engineers we ever had. Though it is 18 years since he retired he is keeping the same good health as before. So it is not for that reason that the headquarters of Alwaye Division was shifted from Muvattupuzha to Alwaye.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : May I know whether the member knows that Mr. Everad has been going to Bangalore very often ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : He might have gone to Bangalore for his own reasons.

President : Even healthy men can go to Bangalore.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് എൻജിനീയർ ആലുവായിലെ താമസം മൂലമാണോ ആരോഗ്യവാനായിത്തീർന്നത് ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : അതിനു മുമ്പുതന്നെ അദ്ദേഹം വളരെ ആരോഗ്യവാനായിരുന്നു.

Mr. I. C. Chacko : The headquarters of a Division is fixed on various considerations. Geographical considerations alone will not be sufficient in fixing the headquarters. In fact Alwaye is in every way much better suited as the headquarters of that Division. The Division, as constituted at that time, included the taluks of Vaikam, Shertala, Parur, Kunnathunad, Muvattupuzha, Thodupazha and Devicolam, so that Alwaye was more central than Muvattupuzha as the headquarters of that Division. Even Devicolam, at that time was nearer to Alwaye than Muvattupuzha because an Officer if he had to go to Devicolam had to take train from Alwaye, go to Coimbatore and then proceed to Udumalpet and from there go to Devicolam. That was the only direct route to Devicolam along the Northern outlet road.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Have not the conditions changed now ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Conditions have changed everywhere. For that matter, even Quilon is not the centre of the Quilon Revenue Division nor Kottayam is the centre of the Kottayam Revenue Division.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : May I know whether the honourable member is aware that it was suggested that the centre of the Revenue Division of Quilon should be shifted to some other place ?

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Mr. I. C. Chacko: Such suggestions might have been made. Now, Sir, in regard to the statement that the number of officers in the P. W. D. is excessive, I may mention that in the year 1085 the department underwent a reorganisation. Then the total allotment was only Rs. 18 lakhs and we had nine executive engineers at that time. The allotment now is over 50 lakhs and the number of them is only 7 including one temporary post. The percentage of expenditure of this department is much lower than that which obtains elsewhere. Moreover the number of officers cannot be reduced without affecting seriously the efficiency of the department.

Mr. M. K. Anantasiva Aiyar: May I know whether expenditure could not be curtailed in respect of certain officers who are found to be superfluous? For instance I may say that when there is a Lock Superintendent at Thottapally who checks the boats going that way and also registers the timbers taken that way, why should there be unnecessary expenditure in having a Supervisor for that locality?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Sir, the Overseer who is appointed is not intended for Thottapally alone. He goes all over the place on duty. But the Lock Superintendent cannot leave his place.

Mr. M. K. Anatasiva Aiyar: May I know whether the honourable member is aware that in regard to the sinking of the tube wells 3 mechanics are attached for 2 engines that are to be worked?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: I am not aware of that. Then it was mentioned, Sir, that estimates are framed by maistries. That is not the rule obtaining in the department. Supervisors who are either graduates or diploma holders or Upper Subordinates are primarily responsible for the preparation of the estimates. But it is possible, and it is often done, to depute maistries for field work or office work to assist the Supervisors. But these maistries are men with technical qualifications. Most of them have undergone two years' training in the Technical School here. A few of them possess necessary qualifications to rise up to the Supervisor's post or even Sub-Engineer's grade. In addition to that the Assistant Engineers verify and certify the accuracy of the estimates.

Then, Sir, with regard to the corruption in the department. Several honourable members referred to this subject. In many cases it was only a case of generalisation from a particular instance or person they had in view. Honourable members must be aware that during the past few years there have been very stringent punishments meted out to several officers from the highest to the lowest grades for corruption, not only when there was legal evidence but also when Government were convinced morally that they were guilty. But on mere complaints made and on general statements it is not possible to take any action in these matters. Therefore it is for the public

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and the honourable members of this House to co-operate with Government and bring forward specific instances thereby helping Government to punish the really guilty.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know from the member whether he is prepared to enquire into the conduct of every officer even if there is no specific complaints brought forward either on the floor of this House or by the general public?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: If there is any specific instance brought forward, Government will certainly make proper enquiries.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know what the honourable member's idea is, is there corruption or is there no corruption in his Department?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: There might be as in every other department. But there is no evidence for the existence of corruption in my department.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Just like non-officials the departmental heads also may get information about corruption of their subordinates. If it is so, should not they make some enquiry and take action wherever necessary?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: If the Head of the Department is convinced that there is truth in the allegation he will certainly take action.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ കൈക്കൂലിവാങ്ങുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നും ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാർ പണംവാങ്ങിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇവർതന്നെ അവർക്കുള്ളതു് എടുത്തുകൊണ്ടു് ബാക്കികൊടുക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നും മൊബൈക്കു് അറിയാമോ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: അതുവെറും തെറ്റായ ഒരു ധാരണയാണെന്നാണു് എന്റെ ബോധം.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan referred to two important bridges—the iron girder bridge at Quilon and the Chavara bridge. Adequate amounts have been provided in the budget for 1117 for works in connection with these bridges. And the works will be taken up as soon as possible. The difficulty is to get the iron materials and so Government cannot definitely promise when the works will be started. Regarding the Pathiyoor bridge, the honourable member referred to the proposal for constructing a bridge on the village road for which a sum of Rs. 10 per mile has been sanctioned for annual maintenance. This item was not included in the list of works by the P. W. D. Advisory Board and so we are not able to take up the work now.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know from the member whether the matter was not brought to the attention of the Department before the constitution of the Board?

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Mr. I. C. Chacko: There have been representations about this bridge.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know whether it was not the duty of the Head of the Department concerned to place this matter before the Advisory Committee so that they may be enabled to include this also in the list?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: I am not quite sure whether it was not placed before the Advisory Committee. I must verify. The honourable member Mr. K. M. Kesavan referred to a road from Thuravoor to Pallichole. This road is a parallel one to the road which goes from Alleppey to Aroor. If the road is to be extended 15 miles of new road had to be formed along low fields. Government will have to incur heavy costs by way of acquiring lands, the major portion of which consist of paddy fields, and also by constructing two major bridges which are necessary if the road is to be extended. Moreover the road is not very important as we have got the Alleppy-Aroor road close by. Any how, the matter is to be investigated further.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai referred to the formation of the Irrigation Division again. Sir, the place of the Irrigation Division Officer was abolished as a measure of retrenchment. It was also felt very inconvenient to have only one officer at Quilon to attend to the irrigational needs of the whole State. The Irrigation Officers have to move in close co-operation with the people and those who lived in northern and southern parts found it very difficult to get at him by going to Quilon. Therefore the present arrangement is found to be more satisfactory so far as the people's needs are concerned.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: But for the works irrigation?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: There are the regular P. W. D. Division Officers to attend to these works. The sub-divisions and sections have not been abolished.

For the Keralapuram-Pooyapalli road, I may say that the people have to open that road. If that is done, action will be taken by Government by granting suitable amounts for its maintenance. So far as the Canal Bank Road is concerned, there is a sanctioned estimate for Rs. 92,000 and part of the work has been already started from the allotment of Rs. 15,000 which was made for 1116. The difficulty in this case also is to get iron materials. For 1117 also a sum of Rs. 15,000 is provided in the budget.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar complained that all the works selected by the Advisory Board are not completed, some of them not even started during this year. There is one real difficulty with regard to the works selected by the Advisory Board. Most of them have not been investigated nor estimates prepared for. They are entirely new works. So estimates have to be framed and they

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have to go through various offices to get sanction. In some cases lands have to be acquired. In other cases lands have to be surrendered by the people. But such of the works as were not started this year, have already been included in the next year's programme.

With regard to irrigation works in North Travancore, Mr. Narayana Aiyar complains that no works have been done north of Changanacherry. In North Travancore, it has been my experience that the irrigation tanks are not very successful, except in very rare cases. I have had instances of at least half-a-dozen tanks for which estimates have already been santioned but at the stage when the work was started, the ryots themselves objected and we had to give them up, because of the porous nature of the soil and water is not retaind for any considerable length of time in these tanks. Therefore we are confining ourselves to the improvement of the streams. Anicuts or dams are constructed wherever necessary. In the case of tanks also when the Department is convinced after careful investigation that a tank really useful, it is taken up for improvement. There was an Irrigation Sub-Division in Muvattupuzha and Rs. 50,000 was being spent annually for the purpose of irrigation in North Travancore.

Mr. Easwara Pillai referred to some roads in his constituency. There are 2 or 3 roads which we are not able to start. There was a controversy about one road and the final estimate has not yet been prepared. That is why we were not able to construct that road. In other cases, lands were not available and the delay in starting the work is due to that.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Is it absolutely necessary that the people should surrender the land?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: It was a definite understanding that the lands will be surrendered by the people. Estimates were prepared for such works without any provision for land acquisitions. Even at the time of the preparation of estimates, the understanding was that the people should surrender the lands.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Is it obligatory on the part of the people to construct a road before it is taken up by the Department?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: In the case of certain roads, it is.

Mr. A. Easwara pillai: May I know whether allotments are made for making roads?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: For some of them.

President: Order, order. Before putting this grant to vote, in view of some remarks that have fallen from honourable members; I think it is necessary for me to address a

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[President.]

few words to this honourable House. The first is with regard to the lapse of grants and the continuity of works, both major and minor, in the Public Works Department. It will be the objective of Government in co-operation with the Public Works Advisory Committee, for whose tenure also a certain amount of continuity has been provided and will be necessary, to try and formulate a two, three or four year programme. In order to do that, it will be necessary for Government and the Committee to steel their hearts against what may be called transient and temporary demands. What we have to do is to take a general conspectus or a bird's eye-view of the requirements of the State, to outline in detail and in succession the works in the order of their importance and urgency, so that, as far as possible, all the localities needing special help or assistance might get it in the speediest possible way. Having done that, if the programme comes before Government as a two or three year programme, Government would not be slow to proceed on the basis of the programme to allot a certain sum of money for all those works, in order to ensure that those works may be completed in the order contemplated by the Committee and by Government and also to ensure that no lapse occurs. On account of the circumstances which the Chief Engineer has adverted to at the close of his remarks, many of the items which have formed the subject of the deliberations and decisions of the Public Works Advisory Committee have been new projectst—projects which require land acquisition proceedings and detailed estimates. Working against time and for the purpose of pleasing one locality or other, there is likely to be some scamping of work or some undue waste. Therefore it is, I am commending to this House and elsewhere and also for the attention of the public at large, that they should take great care to select the best possible men to the Public Works Committee. The Public Works Committee should be given a certain continuity of tenure for two or three years, that they should formulate not a hand to mouth programme but a programme for two, three, four or five years of works, in the order of urgency and importance and a certain sum of money would be set apart, so that in the best possible way, money might be spent to the greatest possible advantage.

The other point to which I wish to advert is the question of corruption. As the Chief Engineer has indicated, Government have not flinched, whatever may be the rank and station of the officer concerned, to proceed against culprits not only on the basis of strictly provable legal evidence. If Government in this or in any other department come to the conclusion that there are morally speaking, grounds for suspecting the conduct of an officer, they have taken necessary steps. Such steps are to give the alternatives

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to the officers, either to face an open enquiry or to take the leave they are entitled to preparatory to retirement. It is when the alternatives have presented themselves in their way, that retirements have been the result. But nevertheless it is easy for this honourable House to perceive that Government cannot go much farther. In the absence of specific particulars, it is impossible to fix any blame or turpitude on anybody. But wherever and whenever complaints gather momentum from various sources, Government are alive to the necessity for scrutiny and investigation. More often than not the result of the investigation is that nobody will come forward and give any definite information. Government should be very particular to guard and maintain their own reputation and the reputation of their officers, but equally is it the duty of Government not to rush at precipitate conclusion as to the guilt of officers who, it may be, have served Government to the best of their lights. I am afraid also that certain influential persons make it a regular habit, whenever a particular officer is not amenable to their demands or requests, to rush up to Trivandrum in a most indignant manner suggesting all sorts of corruption and turpitude, whereas as a matter of fact, in one or two cases which I know personally, all that has happened is that the officer has not been willing to yield to the illegal or unreasonable demands either for certain concessions or for certain favours asked of them. I do not wish to mention names but knowing this phenomenon, as well as I do, Government are naturally averse to arrive at hasty decisions. But with a certain amount of co-operation from the public, with a certain amount of alertness on the part of the officers and with the growing realisation on the part of the department, that the casting out of black sheep from amongst their ranks, tends to their honour and glory, I feel sure that corruption can be dealt with. But in order to deal with it adequately, it is necessary that, wherever any one instance of corruption can be definitely and strictly proved, it ought to be pursued from first, to last, without flinching and without favour. At the last moment a person should not come and say: "no doubt I heard so and so. Now I find that no proper evidence is available." A document was once presented to me, purporting to emanate from a particular officer. At the last moment, it was pointed out that it was not in the handwriting of that officer and could not be his handwriting. Such are difficulties which honourable members will realise. I want to emphasise very strongly that Government, without respecting the persons from the highest to the lowest will not hesitate to take the strongest possible steps against any hint of corruption. To condemn a particular man requires more than mere suspicion. Suspicion however may grow into such a moral certainty that Government are entitled to act. In such a case Government would not flinch but

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[President.]

success in this, as in everything else, depends upon the rousing of the moral indignation of the people at large and the rousing of the spirit so as to ensure that no exaction and no injustice is allowed to be perpetrated without people taking some risks to expose these facts.

One more matter and that relates specially to the Public Works Department. It has been a matter of great Disappointment to me, as some other things, have been, that there is not prevalent in the State a sufficient desire on the part of people to earn profits by legitimate means. It is possible in relation to the Department of Public Works for capitalists to engage a good and competent engineer and undertake contracts as a properly financed and properly advised syndicate. I hold the view that sooner or later—I trust that sooner rather than later—the Public Works Department would act as a kind of clearing house transacting as much work as possible through a number of local firms or syndicates in which the capitalists and qualified private engineers would co-operate for the purpose of carrying out small as well as big works. I for one would be so glad if there was a group of persons who will take up big contracts. Now isolated laymen tender for various works, either for a building like this or for a bridge, or for a dam, or for some hydro-electric scheme. They know very little about engineering. If anything goes wrong, they do not know what is wrong. They have no experience and they have no technical advice. In the result they are entirely in the hands of the department and incidentally the department is entirely in their hands. It will conduce to much greater advantage and much less corruption if Government were able in the Public Works Department to hand over as many contracts as possible on certain defined and formulated terms to syndicates, organisations and to private persons who are duly equipped with capital and who do not flinch from taking the assistance and advice of duly qualified engineers belonging to Travancore as far as possible even resorting to outside talent, if necessary. If that were done, I assure honourable members that there will be much less unsatisfactory work and much more speedy work and much less chance for corruption than there is at the present moment.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 52,52,419 under Demand VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage was put and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE
Rs. 23,22,578.

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 23,22,578 under Demand VIII—Electricity and Telephone.

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